



DOCKET NO.: MS303532.1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Applicant: **Eric J. Horvitz, et al.**

Serial No.: **10/635,274**

Filed: **August 6, 2003**

For: **A COST-BENEFIT APPROACH TO AUTOMATICALLY COMPOSING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS BY EXTRACTING INFORMATION FROM LARGE UNSTRUCTURED CORPORA**

Art Unit: **Unknown**

Examiner: **Unknown**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

1. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98, and in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the Office's attention is directed to the patents, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO-1449. A copy of each listed document is enclosed except for: (a) pending applications or (b) those previously cited or submitted to the Office in the following application(s) upon which this application relies for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120:

Serial No.: _____
Filing Date: _____

Regarding any document, publication or other information for which a date is not given on the attached PTO-1449, Applicant(s) believe(s) the same may qualify as "prior" art to this application and should be treated accordingly, although Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to contest the prior art status of any document, publication or information, should issue arise.

2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth in the following document(s):

(a) ___ Copy of each English language version of a search report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office of each document being submitted from the search report.

(b) ___ Attachment entitled "Concise Explanation of Relevance of Non-English Language Documents".

3. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b) this Statement is being filed (one must be checked):

(a) ___ Within 3 months of the filing date or date of entry into the National Stage.

(b) X Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. If this Statement is not filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, the required certification is given below or, in the absence thereof, the Office is authorized to charge the required fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 for consideration of this Statement.

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(c) ___ After the period set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b) but before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance.

(1) ___ The required certification is given below, or

(2) ___ Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) for consideration of this Statement, or

(3) ___ Charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

(d) ___ After the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee. Petition hereby is made for consideration of this Statement and the required certification is indicated below.

(1) ___ Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(i)(1), or

(2) ___ Charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(i)(1) to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

4. Certification (if applicable)

(a) ___ The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.

(b) ___ The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the undersigned's knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Respectfully Submitted,

By Jeffrey R. Sadlowski
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referenced as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the below date with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date: 12-23-2003

Jeffrey R. Sadlowski
Jeffrey R. Sadlowski



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Applicant's Name	10/635,274
Filing Date	August 6, 2003
First Named Inventor	Eric J. Horvitz, et al.
Art Unit	Unknown
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket Number	MS303532.1/MSFTP481US

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		DAVID AZARI, et al., Web-Based Question Answering: A Decision-Making Perspective, Proceedings of the Nineteenth Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence, August 7-10, 2003, Acapulco, Mexico	
		ERIC BRILL, et al., An Analysis of the AskMSR Question-Answering System, Proceedings of 2002 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP 2002), 2002	
		DAVID MAXWELL CHICKERING, et al., A Bayesian Approach to Learning Bayesian Networks with Local Structure, Proceedings of Thirteenth Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence, 1997, pp. 80-89	
		CHARLES L. A. CLARKE, et al., Exploiting Redundancy in Question Answering, Proceedings of SIGIR 2001, September 9-12, 2001, pp. 358-365, New Orleans, LA	
		SUSAN DUMAIS, et al., Web Question Answering: Is More Always Better?, Proceedings of SIGIR 2002, August 11-15, 2002, pp. 207-214, Tampere, Finland	
		SANDRA HARABAGIU, et al., FALCON: Boosting Knowledge for Answer Engines, Proceedings of the Ninth Text Retrieval Conference (TREC-9), 2001, pp. 479-488	
		ERIC HORVITZ, Principles of Mixed-Initiative User Interfaces, Proceedings of the ACM SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, May 1999, pp. 159-166, Pittsburgh, PA	
		CODY C. T. KWOK, et al., Scaling Question Answering to the Web, Proceedings of the 10th World Wide Web Conference (WWW 10), May 1-5, 2001, pp. 150-161, Hong Kong	
		ELLEN M. VOORHEES, et al., Overview of the Ninth Text REtrieval Conference (TREC-9), NIST Special Publication 500-249, 2001	
		INGRID ZUKERMAN, et al., Using Machine Learning Techniques to Interpret WH-questions, Proceedings of Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL-2001), July 2001, pp. 547-554, Toulouse, France	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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